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and Myriopoda as sub-classes of Tracheata, and consequently what have been in former editions regarded as sub-orders are called orders. The Thysanura, moreover, are separated from the Neuroptera and regarded as a distinct order, comprising synthetic types with features allying them to the Orthoptera, Neuroptera and Myriopoda. They are divided into two sub-orders, the lower the *Collembola* of Lubbock, and for the higher sub-order, comprising the Lepismatidæ and Campodeæ, the term *Cinura* (κινεω, to move; ουρος, tail) is proposed. The terms *tenaculum* and *elater* are adopted from the author's previous writings for the "holder" and "spring" of the Collembola; and for the sucker, or organ secreting the adhesive material characteristic of the Collembola, the term *collophore* is proposed.

"Brief mention has been made of the *Pycnogonidæ*, which are placed among the mites; also of the Peripatidæ, which are given a place next to the sucking Myriopoda, since they have been proved by the researches of Mr. Moseley to be Tracheata."

THOMAS' NOXIOUS INSECTS OF ILLINOIS.<sup>1</sup>—This voluminous report evinces the activity shown the past year in Illinois as regards the prevention and cure of injuries from injurious insects. The State entomologist has employed Prof. G. H. French as general assistant, Miss Nettie Middleton as office assistant, and Miss Emily A. Smith as special assistant for the north-western part of the State. Over a hundred pages are devoted by Prof. Thomas to insects injurious to corn; an excellent report by Miss Smith relates also to corn insects and to the maple-tree bark-louse, while the second half of the report is devoted by Prof. French to a description of the butterflies and moths, with their caterpillars, especially injurious in Illinois. The volume is well calculated to interest and instruct the people of the West in economic entomology, and, we think, is an improvement on last year's report.

LOCKYER'S GUILLEMIN'S FORCES OF NATURE.<sup>2</sup>—By its general accuracy of statement, simplicity and clearness of style, and the excellence of the wood-cuts and full page illustrations, this work in its English dress, will commend itself to those naturalists who wish to broaden their field of study and to ascertain the nature of the environment by which the life of the globe is surrounded. From many points of view the naturalist and geologist will need to review and utilize his knowledge, or if that be wanting, acquire some idea of the physical phenomena of nature.

<sup>1</sup> *Seventh Report of the State Entomologist on the Noxious and Beneficial Insects of the State of Illinois. Second Annual Report.* By CYRUS THOMAS, Ph.D., State Entomologist. Springfield, Ill., 1878., 8vo, pp. 290.

<sup>2</sup> *The Forces of Nature.* A popular introduction to the study of Physical Phenomena. By Amédée Guillemin. Translated from the French by Mrs. NORMAN LOCKYER, and edited with additions and notes by J. NORMAN LOCKYER, F.R.S. Illustrated by nearly five hundred engravings. London, Macmillan & Co., 1877. 8vo, pp. 725. 18 numbers, one shilling a number.

The work after having had, as the English publishers claim, an "enormous circulation" in France, and two very large editions in England, is republished in England in eighteen parts, "at about half the original cost." It is divided into seven books, treating of gravity and attraction, sound, light and color, heat, magnetism and electricity, the rainbow, the rise of clouds and fogs, and atmospheric meteors, with a full index. A brief appendix contains the reprint of a paper by Prof. Henry Draper on the discovery of oxygen in the sun by photography, and a new theory of the solar spectrum.

LETTER FROM O. C. MARSH, ETC., TRANSMITTING THE REPORT ON THE SCIENTIFIC SURVEYS OF THE TERRITORIES, ETC.<sup>1</sup>—We have received a copy of this document, which consists of the report of a committee which was appointed by Prof. O. C. Marsh under the following circumstances: Certain persons, not friendly to some of the U. S. Geological Surveys as at present constituted, succeeded in having included in the Sundry Civil Appropriation Bill, of June 30, 1878, the following clause:

"And the National Academy of Sciences is hereby required, at their next meeting, to take into consideration the methods and expenses of conducting all surveys of a scientific character under the War or Interior Department, and the surveys of the Land Office, and to report to Congress as soon thereafter as may be practicable, a plan for surveying and mapping the Territories of the United States on such general system as will, in their judgment, secure the best results at the least possible cost; and also to recommend to Congress a suitable plan for the publication and distribution of the reports, maps and documents, and other results of said surveys."

In pursuance of this act, Prof. Marsh, who is acting president of the Academy, pending the appointment of Prof. Henry's successor, selected a committee consisting of six gentlemen who were not personally connected with the surveys. Of the seven members of the committee, four were geologists, of whom the two younger and more capable members were known to desire changes in the personnel of some of the surveys. In accordance with the constitution of the National Academy, a committee may be appointed in the interval of the meetings, in response to a request of Congress, and such committee is not required to refer to the Academy for advice and assistance, but reports its conclusions to Congress direct, and its proceedings to the next meeting of the Academy. It is evident that reports made in this way lose much of their authority as utterances of the Academy, especially when, as in the present instance it has just been deprived of its president and has not yet secured the services of a successor.

<sup>1</sup> *Letter from O. C. Marsh, vice-president and acting president of the National Academy of Sciences, transmitting, in obedience to law, the Report on the Scientific Surveys of the Territories made by the Nat. Academy of Sciences.* Senate Mis. Doc., No. 9.